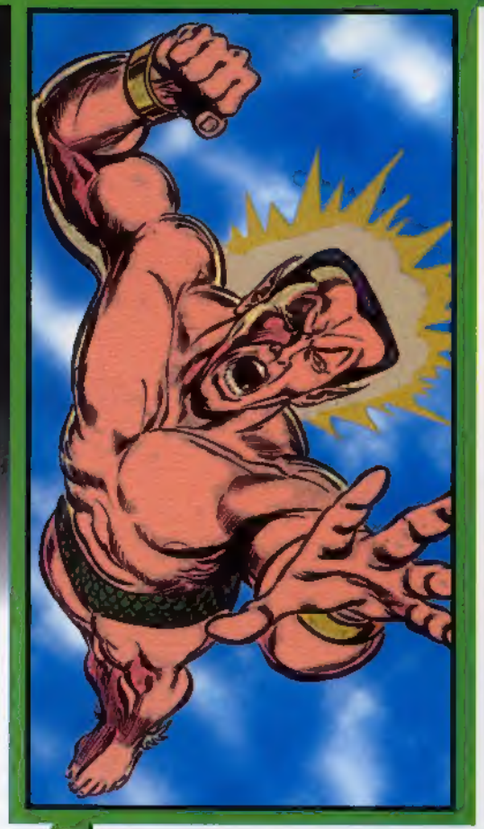
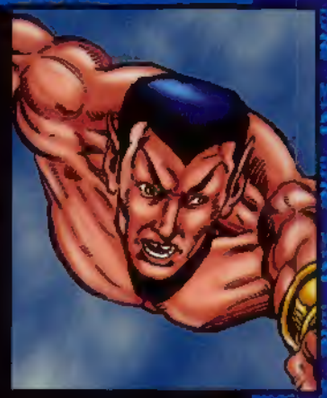
MARVEL COMICS
MARVEL TEAM-UP Starring:
NAMOR
THE SUB-MARINER
APR
#8
DOCTOR
and
STRANGE
FACE IT,
DOC--
WWW.MARVEL.COM
DIRECT EDITION
$1.99 US $2.80 CAN
--THIS IS ONE
PATIENT
YOU DON'T
WANNA SEE!
PEYER ▪ HERDLING ▪ HOOD ▪ PERROTTA

MARVEL TEAM UP



Son of an air-breathing father and a water-breathing mother, gifted with superhuman strength and the power of flight, the mighty **Sub-Mariner** -- **Prince Namor** -- has battled for and against humanity since World War II. But there are times when even the avenging son of **Atlantis** finds himself requiring the aid of some of Earth's greatest champions...

NAMOR



The half-human, half-Atlantean monarch of the sunken city of Atlantis, who has served as both an enemy and a defender of mankind!

DR. STRANGE

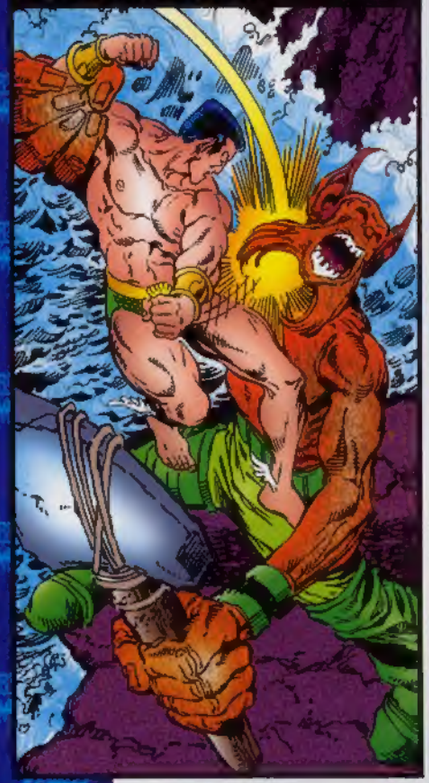
A former physician, who, years ago, learned the mystical arts at the feet of a mystic master called The Ancient One. Stephen Strange has since elevated his status to become Earth's Sorcerer Supreme with the death of the Ancient One. Strange uses his great power as our dimension's first line of defense against malevolent magical entities.

NAMORITA (KYMAERA)

Namor's cousin, who oversaw the building of New Atlantis and ruled in Namor's absence while he was in the Heroes Reborn pocket universe and presumed dead. Namorita has taken leave from the New Warriors, the super hero team she helped form.

PREVIOUSLY IN MARVEL TEAM-UP

Namor returned from the Heroes Reborn pocket universe with the rest of Earth's mightiest heroes. Soon after, he became involved in an adventure with the Avengers, and helped foil the world-conquering plans of Morgan LeFay and the evil Mordred.



Recently, on an adventure with Spider-Man, it became clear that something was wrong with Namor; he was suffering from extreme mood swings --

-- and had mysteriously lost the ability to breathe underwater!

Design by COMICRAFT's John Marasigan

TO THE CASUAL OBSERVER, IT IS SIMPLY ONE MORE IN A LONG ROW OF TOWN-HOUSES WHICH LINE GREENWICH VILLAGE ALONG BLEECKER STREET.
THE TRAINED EYE, ON THE OTHER HAND, MIGHT PERCEIVE IT AS A FOCAL POINT FOR VAST SUPERNATURAL ENERGIES...
...ENERGIES SHAPED AND MANIPULATED LIKE CLAY. BY THIS SANCTUM'S SOLE PROPRIETOR--
--DOCTOR STRANGE, MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!
SLOW, METHODIC BREATHS INDICATE THAT THE MAGE HAS ATTAINED SPIRITUAL LIBERATION THROUGH THE CONTEMPLATIVE METHOD OF HITBONENUT.
THE MYSTIC WHO ATTAINS THIS LEVEL OF ENLIGHTENMENT WILL SENSE A DROP OF RAIN AS THOUGH IT WERE A RAGING TSUNAMI.
SO IMAGINE WHAT THE FORCE OF A RAGING TSUNAMI MUST FEEL LIKE!
--WHAT MANNER OF ASSAULT PLAGUES ME NOW?
BY THE SACRED FLAMES OF THE FALTINE--
WHAM
THE ALL-SEEING EYE OF AGAMOTTO WILL REVEAL TO ME WHAT MY MYSTIC BARRIERS OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT!

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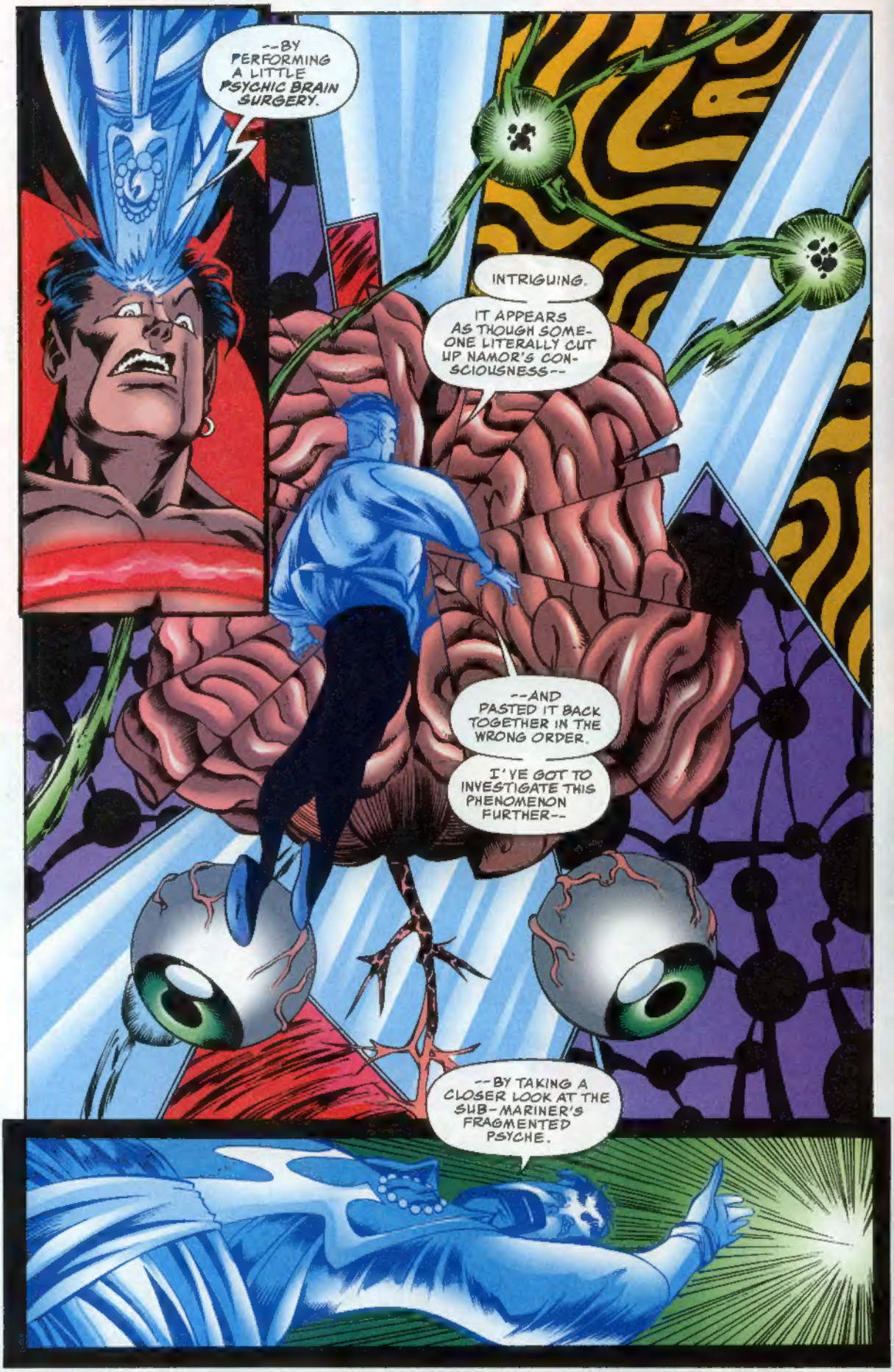
STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE SUB-MARINER AND DOCTOR STRANGE!
STREAMS OF CONSCIOUSNESS
IN THE NAME OF THE VISHANTI! I DON'T KNOW IF MY HEART SHOULD JUMP FOR JOY OR FEAR--
--NAMOR HAS RETURNED FROM HIS EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL EXILE...*
...BUT IT LOOKS AS THOUGH HE'S OUT FOR BLOOD--
--MINE!
TOM PEYER - plot
GLENN HERDLING - script
JOSH HOOD - pencils
RICH PERROTTA - inks
BILL OAKLEY - letters
TOM SMITH - colors
TOM BREVOORT & GLENN GREENBERG - editors
BOB HARRAS - editor supreme
* IN HEROES REBORN: THE RETURN --TOM & GLENN.

WHAM
WHAMM
I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE, STRANGE!
COME OUT AND FACE THE WRATH OF THE ONE, TRUE SUB-MARINER!
I MUST PUT A STOP TO THIS BEFORE HE ACTUALLY HURTS HIMSELF.
THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO SHALL PIERCE NAMOR'S RAGE, REVEALING THE TRUTH BENEATH HIS SAVAGE DEMEANOR...
HIDING BEHIND MAGIC SHIELDS WON'T...
...HELP?
STEPHEN, HELP ME. MAINTAIN YOUR BARRIERS.
ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT CONSUME MY RAGE.

AN EVIL SELF MAY LIE WITHIN THE MIRROR'S SMOOTH AND SILVER SKIN.
BIND THE DARKNESS THROUGH MIRROR CRACK'D THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTORRAK!
NEPTUNE'S BLOOD!
COWARDLY MAGE! YOUR EARTHLY SPELLS WILL NOT CONTAIN THE FURY OF THE SEVEN SEAS!
LET'S TAKE THIS PARTY INSIDE, WHERE I CAN THINK OF A SPELL TO MAKE YOU SHUT UP!
YOU DARE INSULT A PRINCE OF THE REALM?!?
INTERESTING. IN YOUR CHILDLIKE RAGE, YOU SOMEHOW PERCEIVE MY ASTRAL FOR--
ARRGH!
UNBELIEVABLE! HIS ATTEMPT TO BREAK FREE CREATED A PSYCHIC BACKLASH!
I CANNOT WITHSTAND ANOTHER SUCH ATTACK! I'VE GOT TO WORK FAST--


--BY PERFORMING A LITTLE PSYCHIC BRAIN SURGERY.
INTRIGUING.
IT APPEARS AS THOUGH SOMEONE LITERALLY CUT UP NAMOR'S CONSCIOUSNESS--
--AND PASTED IT BACK TOGETHER IN THE WRONG ORDER.
I'VE GOT TO INVESTIGATE THIS PHENOMENON FURTHER--
--BY TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT THE SUB-MARINER'S FRAGMENTED PSYCHE.

HMM. NAMOR'S *PAST* IS PLAYING OUT FOR ME LIKE A MOVIE TRAILER.

MOST OF THESE IMAGES I AM FAMILIAR WITH. AS FOR THE MORE *RECENT* ONES...

"... IT LOOKS AS THOUGH NAMOR RETURNED TO THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE SOMEWHERE IN THE *BOWERY*--

"-- WHERE, DAZED AND CONFUSED, HE JOINED FORCES WITH THE VILLAINOUS *WRECKING CREW* ON A RAMPAGE IN LOWER MANHATTAN.

"*WAIT*-- WHAT IS *THIS*?! NAMOR'S MEMORIES RE-TURNED WHEN HE PLUNGED INTO THE EAST RIVER--

"--BUT HIS CAPACITY TO *BREATHE* IN HIS NATIVE ELEMENT HAS APPAR-ENTLY BEEN *LOST*."*

ALL THESE ELEMENTS -- THEY'RE SO *DISJOINTED*. MEMORIES OF THE DISTANT *PAST* SUPERIMPOSED UPON THOSE OF THE *PRESENT*.

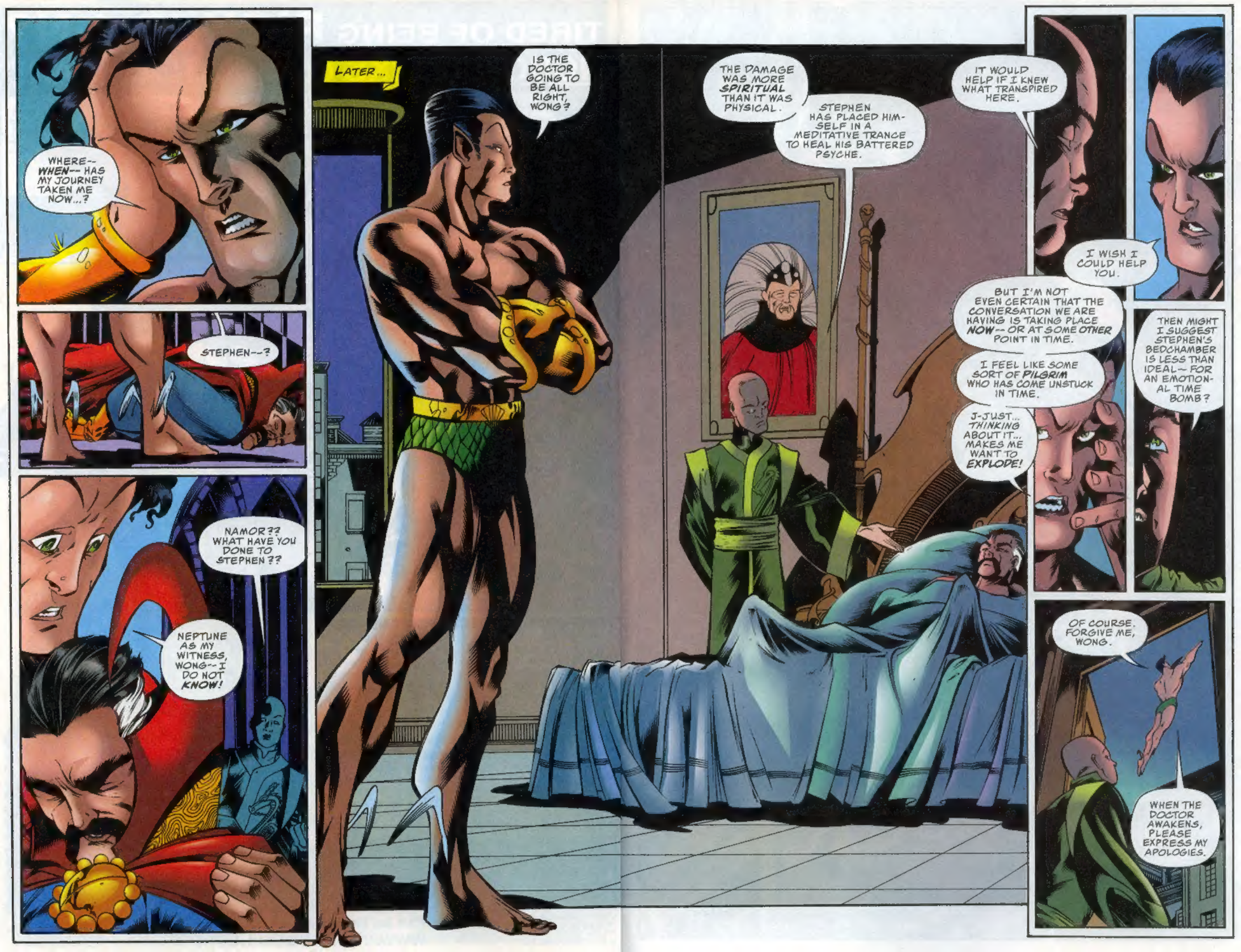
BUT WHAT WOULD MAKE NAMOR SUBLIMINALLY PROCESS ALL OF HIS PAST EXPERIENCES AS THOUGH THEY WERE TRANSPIRING *TODAY*?

THOSE FEELINGS OF *RAGE* AND *REBELLION* THAT HE EXPERIENCED FIFTY YEARS AGO ARE AS IMMEDIATE TO HIM AS THIS MORNING'S BREAKFAST...

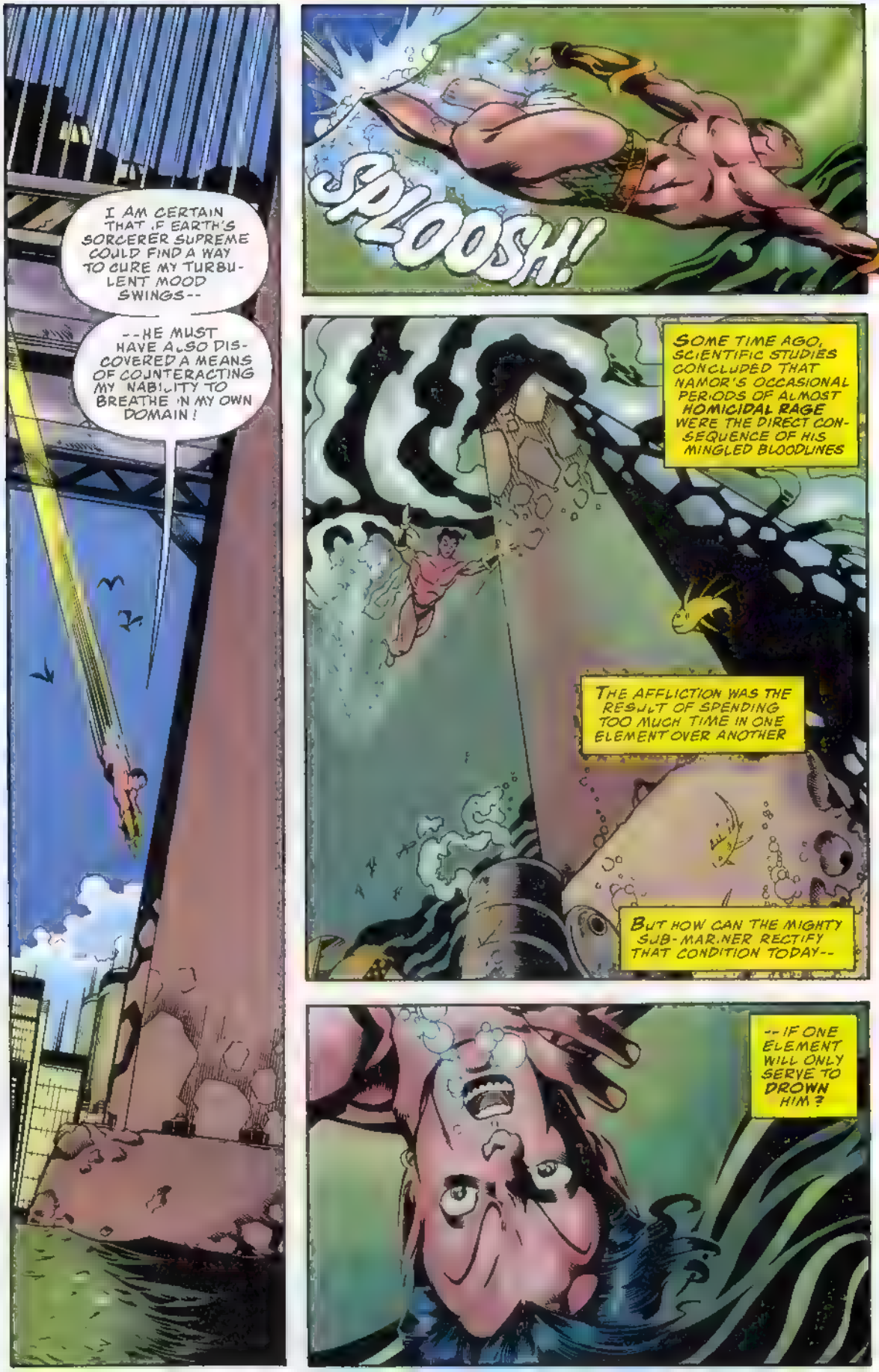
ARRRGH!

* IT HAPPENED RIGHT HERE, TWO ISSUES AGO! -- BORN-AGAIN TOM & GLENN.

MY ASTRAL FORM-- IT'S BEING HURLED FROM NAMOR'S MIND!
THE SUB-MARINER MUST HAVE RENEWED HIS ATTACK ON THE MYSTIC SHACKLES WHICH BIND HIM!
IF I HADN'T EXPERIENCED THE BACKLASH MYSELF, I NEVER WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IT--
--THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTORRAK ARE COMPRISED OF THE SAME STRANDS OF ENERGY THAT HOLD THIS UNIVERSE TOGETHER!
NO PHYSICAL FORCE IN THE WORLD SHOULD EVEN COME CLOSE TO RATTLING THEM!
I MUST RETURN TO MY CORPOREAL VESSEL AT ONCE!
THE COMBINED STRENGTH OF MY ASTRAL AND PHYSICAL ENERGIES MIGHT BE ENOUGH TO STAVE OFF--
IMPERIUS REX!!
SNAP
SNAP
UNNNNH--!


WHERE-- WHEN-- HAS MY JOURNEY TAKEN ME NOW...?
STEPHEN--?
NAMOR?? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO STEPHEN??
NEPTUNE AS MY WITNESS, WONG-- I DO NOT KNOW!
LATER...
IS THE DOCTOR GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT, WONG?
THE DAMAGE WAS MORE SPIRITUAL THAN IT WAS PHYSICAL.
STEPHEN HAS PLACED HIMSELF IN A MEDITATIVE TRANCE TO HEAL HIS BATTERED PSYCHE.
IT WOULD HELP IF I KNEW WHAT TRANSPIRED HERE.
I WISH I COULD HELP YOU.
BUT I'M NOT EVEN CERTAIN THAT THE CONVERSATION WE ARE HAVING IS TAKING PLACE NOW-- OR AT SOME OTHER POINT IN TIME.
I FEEL LIKE SOME SORT OF PILGRIM WHO HAS COME UNSTUCK IN TIME.
J-JUST... THINKING ABOUT IT... MAKES ME WANT TO EXPLODE!
THEN MIGHT I SUGGEST STEPHEN'S BEDCHAMBER IS LESS THAN IDEAL-- FOR AN EMOTIONAL TIME BOMB?
OF COURSE. FORGIVE ME, WONG.
WHEN THE DOCTOR AWAKENS, PLEASE EXPRESS MY APOLOGIES.

BETTER
MUCH BETTER, IN FACT THE RAGE IS GONE I FEEL.. MUCH MORE AT EASE
I DO NOT COMPLETELY COMPREHEND WHAT DR STRANGE DID--
--BUT ONE BREATH OF THIS CRISP WINTER AIR..
...AND SUDDENLY I'M AT PEACE.
AND IF THE ELEMENT OF MY SURFACE-DWELLING HERITAGE HAS SUCH AN EFFECT ON ME...
...PERHAPS IT IS TIME ONCE AGAIN TO "TEST THE WATERS" OF MY SEA-DWELLING ANCESTRY


I AM CERTAIN THAT IF EARTH'S SORCERER SUPREME COULD FIND A WAY TO CURE MY TURBULENT MOOD SWINGS--
--HE MUST HAVE ALSO DISCOVERED A MEANS OF COUNTERACTING MY INABILITY TO BREATHE IN MY OWN DOMAIN!
SPLOOSH!
SOME TIME AGO, SCIENTIFIC STUDIES CONCLUDED THAT NAMOR'S OCCASIONAL PERIODS OF ALMOST HOMICIDAL RAGE WERE THE DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF HIS MINGLED BLOODLINES
THE AFFLICTION WAS THE RESULT OF SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME IN ONE ELEMENT OVER ANOTHER
BUT HOW CAN THE MIGHTY SUB-MARINER RECTIFY THAT CONDITION TODAY--
--IF ONE ELEMENT WILL ONLY SERVE TO DROWN HIM?

MANY MILES TO THE SOUTH, ON ANTARCTICA'S NETHER SIDE, LIES THE SUBSEA CITY ONCE CALLED MARITANIS
TODAY IT IS CALLED NEW ATLANTIS BY THE SELF-STYLED QUEEN WHO WAS RAISED THERE
IN THE HAPPY DAYS OF HER CHILDHOOD, SHE WAS CALLED NAMORITA SHE BECAME KNOWN AS KYMAERA FOR A TIME, BUT NOW, LIKE HER CITY, SHE TOO HAS BEEN RE-CHRISTENED.
PRINCESS NAMORITA, I BRING NEWS OF YET ANOTHER GROUP OF REBELS DEFECTING TO THE REALM OF PRINCE LLYRON.
IF WE DO NOT INITIATE MY PLAN TO FORM AN ECONOMIC ALLIANCE WITH BUSINESS INTERESTS ON THE SURFACE--
--YOU WILL HAVE NO SUBJECTS TO PRESIDE OVER!
SILENCE, WARLORD KEERG! YOUR PLAN WOULD LEAD TO GREATER PROSPERITY FOR YOU, AND GREATER POLLUTION FOR NEW ATLANTIS!
WHEN OUR TRUE MONARCH, NAMOR THE FIRST, RETURNS FROM HIS SABBATICAL, I DON'T THINK HE'D APPRECIATE A FASCIST WELCOMING PARTY.
FORGIVE ME, M'LADY-- I KNOW THAT NAMOR IS SUBJECT TO PROLONGED ABSENCES..
BUT I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE HIDING SOMETHING!

"I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THAT NAMOR HAS SEEN H'S LAST DAYS BENEATH THE WAVES!
;gasp;
;ptew;
FOUL, STINKING WATER! A BY-PRODUCT OF OVER-EXCESSIVE HUMAN CONSUMPTION!
HEY! CHECK IT OUT! IT'S THE SUB-MAREENER!
TO THE STYGIAN DEPTHS WITH YOU, SURFACE DWELLER!
THE SCION OF ATLANTIS WILL BE GLAD TO HASTEN YOUR JOURNEY!
I HEARD THESE GUYS IS COMIN' BACK UP ALL OVER THE WORLD!
I-- I DON'T THINK THIS ONE IS TOO HAPPY ABOUT IT!
RUN!

GEORGE, RAD,O IN FOR BACK-UP!
TELL 'EM WE'VE GOT A MAJOR FOUR-FIFTEEN BREW NG AT THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE!
BUT THE AVENGING SON IS NOT ON THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE ..
HUNGH!
ASSAULTING AN OFFICER, JACKASS? DO YOU KNOW THE PUNISHMENT FOR THAT?
I-I'M SORRY!
I WAS TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM THE SUB-MAREENER!
...HE IS IN BITBURG, GERMANY, 1945.
...WHERE HE WITNESSED UNIFORMED MEN PERPETRATING THE VILEST ATROCITIES ON THEIR FELLOW MAN
YOU'RE GONNA WISH THE SUB-MARINER HAD GOTTEN AHOLD OF YOU ONCE I GET THROUGH WITH YOU!
JAKE, DON'T--!
ON THAT DAY, HE UTTERED A PROMISE...
NOOOO!

NEVER AGAIN!
VIOLENCE AND TREACHERY AGAINST ONE MAN--
WHEN WILL YOUR KIND LEARN?
--OR SIX MILLION--
KRASH
--THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOMEONE TO STAND AGAINST SUCH AS YOU!
YES! RUN!
NO ONE MAY APPROACH THE ROYAL PERSON OF THE SUB-MARINER!
THE NEREIDS HAVE DECREED IT SO!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 11

SPIDER-MAN: THE MANGA #8
SPIDEY goes lookin' for a kick in the head as he hunts down the fleet-footed KANGAROO in an attempt to clear his own besmirched name! By RYOICHI IKEGAMI!

STAR TREK: THE UNTOLD VOYAGES #2 of 5
SPOCK must come to the aid of a troubled child named SAAVIK! Meanwhile, CAPTAIN KIRK and DOCTOR McCOY find themselves on opposite sides of the Prime Directive! By GLENN GREENBERG and MICHAEL COLLINS!

ALPHA FLIGHT #9
The Canadian-based ALPHA FLIGHT attempts to regain control of a weapon they believe to be rightfully theirs, a weapon currently in the hands of the X-MEN — WEAPON X, otherwise known as WOLVERINE! By STEVEN T SEAGLE and SCOTT CLARK

IRON MAN #3
One of the ARMS MERCHANT's suppliers wants TONY STARK silenced over something he may have seen in the data files he broke into — and he's not subtle about how he gets it done! Meanwhile, HAPPY'S got a new lady love and PEPPER is steaming! By KURT BUSIEK and SEAN CHEN!

JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #519
The BLACK WIDOW battles the evil EBON FLAME in this tale of intrigue and suspense and ...S.H.I.E.L.D agents? By SCOTT LOBDELL and RANDY GREEN!

MARVEL ANNUAL FEATURING ZA-ZAR & DAKTARI '98
DD and KA-ZAR are out of their elements — and all over each other — in the frozen wastelands of Antarctica! What could be the cause of their ice-melting collision? By ANN NOCENTI and DARREN AUCK!

MARVEL ADVENTURES #13
TV's animated SILVER SURFER trails a blazing meteor to Earth, where it is revealed to be in the possession of the lucre-hungry LOOTER! Maybe SPIDER-MAN can take time off from his animated series to help! By BOB BUDIANSKY and ALEX SAVIUK!

SILVER SURFER: INNER DEMONS REPRINT
Red-hot reprint of recent fave SURFER issues! The Stainless One takes on the U.S. Air Force, the HULK, and DOCTOR STRANGE in rapid succession! By J.M. DEMATTEIS and RON GARNEY!

THUNDERBOLTS: MARVEL'S MOST WANTED TPB
This titillating trade paperback reveals the sizzlin' secrets behind the members of the Marvel Universe's most secretive super team! Featuring the work of STAN LEE, JACK KIRBY, ROGER STERN, WALLY WOOD, DON HECK, SAL BUSCEMA and GEORGE PÉREZ, to name just a few!

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #433
That morphing maniac MR. HYDE crashes JOE ROBERTSON's going-away party at the Daily Bugle! Can SPIDEY pull a quick-change, without his sprained ankle giving him away? By TOM DEFALCO and TOM LYLE!

GENERATION X #37
JUBILEE and CHAMBER enter an alternate reality in an attempt to snatch SYNCH from the clutches of "M-PLATE!" Back in the Biosphere, EMMA and SKIN check out TOKEN's credentials! By LARRY HAMA and GERMAN GARCIA

X-FACTOR #144
HAVOK is faced with the choice of smashing the BROTHERHOOD or allowing the DARK BEAST to unleash the LEGACY VIRUS worldwide! By HOWARD MACKIE and DUNCAN ROULEAU!

X-MEN: RISE OF APOCALYPSE TPB
Revealed in the pages of this tip-top tome is the origin of one of the fiercest foes of both man and mutant — APOCALYPSE! Bonus feature: a brand new sneak peek at his fearsome future! By TERRY KAVANAGH, LOUISE SIMONSON, WALT SIMONSON and ADAM POLLINA!

ITEM! North America's two top-secret mutant teams fight like rabid dogs next week in the pages of ALPHA FLIGHT #9! That's right — ALPHA FLIGHT take on the X-MEN in the first half of "North and South," to be concluded in next month's UNCANNY X-MEN #355! The trouble starts when Canada's DEPARTMENT H decides to recall a weapon they created over a decade ago —WEAPON X, otherwise known as WOLVERINE! But the X-MEN aren't giving up the ol' Canucklehead without a fight! Just as there are two sides to this battle, there are two sides to this story, which kicks off from Alpha Flight's point of view, and finishes as told from the perspective of the X-MEN! Written by STEVEN SEAGLE, who will also write the finale, ALPHA FLIGHT #9 features art by SCOTT CLARK and CHRIS CARLSON! Don't miss this uncanny crossover!

ITEM! The Bullpen's abuzz with the news that the creative team on the INCREDIBLE HULK has been nominated for Wizard magazine's fan awards! The awards, which are presented annually, reflect the votes of you, the comic book readers of the world – our *true* bosses! So you can probably guess how highly coveted these awards are! This year, PETER DAVID received a nomination in the "Favorite Writer" category, while ADAM KUBERT and MARK FARMER have shots at winning "Favorite Penciler" and "Favorite Inker," respectively! Congratulations and good luck, guys – we're rootin' for ya!

Hi, Heroes!

I've got great news for you! Just when it looked as if we might be running out of No-Prizes, the Mighty Marvel Mint has just announced that they'll be printing a new series in order to keep up with the demand! So keep those letters coming, culture-lovers. The Holy Grail of Comicdom is still within thy reach!

Now, put your hands together for our first No-Prize Laureate, Jimmy Hayes of Romeoville, IL, who begs to inquire:

"Of all the characters you created (Peter Parker, Reed Richards, Tony Stark, etc.), were any of them based on real-life friends or relatives?"

Actually, Jim, I have very strange friends whom I used as models for Dr. Doom, the Hulk and Galactus! As for my relatives, many of them resemble Doc Ock while the others are more like Dormammu! You wouldn't wanna attend one of our reunions! Truthfully though, I usually think of actors and actresses when dreaming up new characters. See, sometimes the truth is a duller answer!

Uh-oh! Here's a stickler from Calum Agius, of Queensland, Australia:

"Why is it that Spider-Man's webs stick to everything from walls to villains but don't stick to the palms of his own hands?"

Hey, Cal, his webbing does stick to the palms of his hands! That's why he can web-swing so well – 'cause he never loses his grip!

Let's get to the next question fast, before you realize how I sneakily slid outta that last one! This snippet is part of an erudite epistle from R.J. Leone of Columbia, MO:

"What scientific tests did Marvel conduct in order to come up with OOAHHG (pain), SHRAKOOOM (explosion) and BLERCH (bone crushing)?"

It's simple, R.J. All we do is rent Professor X's Danger Room for a few hours, toss in any of our editors whose books are behind schedule, and tape-record the merriment that ensues! That's probably where we got our reputation for realism!

It occurs to me that I've been dispensing wisdom and wonderment for lo these many years, but I haven't hit you with any of my practically priceless poetry lately. Well, since I don't want you to be spiritually deprived any longer, here goes nothin' –

I think that I shall never see
A comic book lovely as a tree
Poems are made by fools like me.
But no tree can make a comic book!

Hey, who ever said poetry hadda make sense?!! Send in some of your own, the wilder and wackier the better – we've gotta unload those No-Prizes somehow!

Excelsior!

Stan

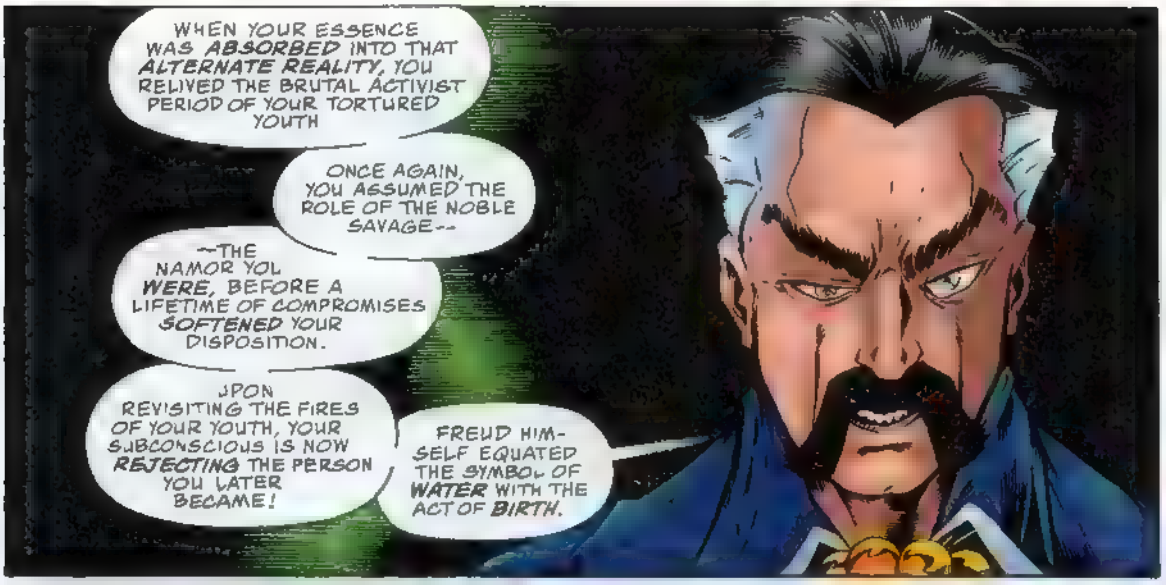
Stan Lee

Now the moment you've been waiting for – our address! "Stan's Soapbox," c/o BULLPEN BULLETINS, Marvel Comics, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. Think of it as comicdom's Taj Mahal!

Design by Richard Starkings and COMICRAFT

NAMOR MUST BE FOREVER ALONE!
eh?
WHAT MADNESS IS THIS?!
PIECES OF THE WRECKAGE LEVITATING--
--AS THOUGH TRYING TO RESTORE THEMSELVES TO A UNIFIED WHOLE!
SHOW YOURSELF, DOCTOR!
TELL ME WHY YOU COULD NOT DO FOR ME WHAT YOU DID FOR A SIMPLE VEHICLE!
THAT'S WHAT I AM TRYING TO DETERMINE, PRINCE NAMOR!
BUT YOUR FITS OF RAGE ARE NOT MAKING MY TASK ANY EASIER!
A PSYCHIC SEDATIVE WILL RESOLVE THAT

LATER, IN THE GUEST CHAMBER OF DR STRANGE'S SANCTUM SANCTORUM...
IRONIC, ISN'T IT, WONG?
HOURS EARLIER, IT WAS MY UNCONSCIOUS FORM LYING IN BED WITH THE TWO OF YOU FRETTING OVER ME.
INDEED, STEPHEN.
BUT WHILE YOU EMERGED WHOLE FROM YOUR SLUMBER--
--WILL NAMOR?
IT HAPPENED AGAIN
THE SON OF ATLANTIS DOES NOT EMBARRASS EASILY, DOCTOR
BUT I FOOLISHLY THOUGHT YOU HAD CURED ME.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, NAMOR.
I'VE COMPLETED MY DIAGNOSIS AND I'VE CONCLUDED--
--THAT YOU ARE A VERY SICK INDIVIDUAL.


WHEN YOUR ESSENCE WAS ABSORBED INTO THAT ALTERNATE REALITY, YOU RELIVED THE BRUTAL ACTIVIST PERIOD OF YOUR TORTURED YOUTH
ONCE AGAIN, YOU ASSUMED THE ROLE OF THE NOBLE SAVAGE--
--THE NAMOR YOU WERE, BEFORE A LIFETIME OF COMPROMISES SOFTENED YOUR DISPOSITION.
UPON REVISITING THE FIRES OF YOUR YOUTH, YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS IS NOW REJECTING THE PERSON YOU LATER BECAME!
FREUD HIMSELF EQUATED THE SYMBOL OF WATER WITH THE ACT OF BIRTH.

IS YOUR SUBLIMINAL FEAR OF WATER REALLY A FEAR OF REBIRTH, NAMOR?
PERHAPS ALL YOU REALLY NEED IS A PSYCHIC READJUSTMENT!

LET'S FACE FACTS, OLD FRIEND--A TRUE "AVENGING SON"--
--WOULD SCOFF AT THE VERY IDEA OF COSTUMED SUPER HEROES--
--AND CORPORATE BUSINESSMEN
YOU MUST SHAKE OFF SOME OF YOUR PAST ROLES--

--IF YOU ARE EVER TO FIND YOUR TRUE SELF.
YOU INSTRUCT ME TO MAKE MORE SENSE OUT OF MY LIFE THAN I EVER COULD BEFORE--
--BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
DESPITE THE HALCYON TOUCH OF YOUR MYSTIC FINGERS, I STILL CANNOT THINK STRAIGHT!
SNAP
MAYBE THIS WILL HELP.

AN ORNAMENTAL CHARM??
IT IS THE TALISMAN OF ABRAXAS, AN ANCIENT DEITY OF BOTH GOOD AND EVIL.

YOU SEEK TO SEDATE ME--TRANSFORM ME INTO SOME NEW AGE BOHEMIAN PACIFIST?
ON THE CONTRARY, MY FRIEND. I THINK YOUR SALVATION LIES IN YOUR RETURNING TO YOUR BOLD, ANTAGONISTIC ROOTS.
IN OTHER WORDS, NAMOR--FOLLOW YOUR RAGE.

I CAN MANAGE THAT.

THE ICY WATERS OF NEW ATLANTIS...
OUR FRAGILE, NEW KINGDOM IS EXPERIENCING MUCH DISSENT IN LIGHT OF YOU VETOING KEERG'S ECONOMIC INITIATIVE, NITA.
YOU ALWAYS SHARED A SPECIAL RAPPORT WITH YOUR COUSIN--
--YOU MUST SUMMON THE SUB-MARINER... TO ADDRESS HIS PEOPLE DIRECTLY. THEY WILL RESPOND TO HIS WISDOM.
OH, VASHTI! I FEEL LIKE I'M SWIMMING IN CHUM AND SINKING DEEPER EVERY SECOND!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, CHILD?
I--I GUESS IT'S TIME I TOLD SOMEONE. Y'SEE, WHEN I SAY NAMOR'S NOT HERE, I MEAN--
YOU MEAN HE IS NOT HERE TO PROTECT YOU, LITTLE PRINCESS!
REBEL FORCES-- MOUNTING AN ATTACK OUTSIDE THE CASTLE!
QUICKLY, VASHTI-- OUT THE BACK, WHERE WE CAN--

YOU WILL DO NOTHING, GENE-FREAK!
OUR FORCES HAVE THE PERIMETER SURROUNDED, AND YOUR PERSONAL GUARD HAS BEEN SOUNDLY DEFEATED!
THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN, PRINCESS NAMORITA, AND THE WORD THEY HAVE SPOKEN IS---
DEATH!!
NEXT ISSUE:
(NUFF SAID!)

MARVEL TEAM-UP

Dear *MARVEL TEAM-UP*,

When I was a wee lad in the late 1970s, there was just about nothing I enjoyed more than a good super-hero team-up story. I collected MARVEL TEAM-UP, MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE (and your competitor's books Brave and the Bold and DC Comics Presents) and sent long lists of team-ups I wanted to see to various editors (i.e. "Howsabout Howard the Duck meets Namor?").

Now, after several successful inter-company crossover books, I'm glad to see MARVEL TEAM-UP making a comeback. However, I'm disappointed to see that, for the most part, the plots haven't significantly improved over the past 20 years.

One of the things that has made the inter-company team-up stories so successful is that two major heroes, such as Spider-Man and Batman, get to battle two top villains, such as Carnage and the Joker. Yet, in recent issues of TEAM-UP, you've featured heavy-hitters like Spider-Man and Hercules against a villain like... Dr. Zeus and the Authority? Puh-leeze! If you're going to unite two great heroes, they darn well better be up against a villain so powerful they have to work together! Nothing is more disappointing than seeing two popular heroes spend 20 pages fighting a foe that either hero would have dusted in two panels if they'd been working separately. Having (a classic example) Spider-Man and Iron Man fighting the Tomorrow Man is like having Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Willis whipping on Drew Carey.

To make the new MARVEL TEAM-UP a winner, you need stories like Spidey and the Man-Thing fighting the Lizard, not some cosmic rock. Since you are also open to non-Spider-Man tales, here are a few suggestions:

1. Iron Man/Black Knight/Ghost Rider: Iron Man is your best techno-hero, Ghost Rider your best supernatural hero and the Black Knight (a scientist with supernatural powers) is a nice "bridge" between the two. Possible villains: Baron Mordo and the Crimson Dynamo in a big magic vs. technology free-for-all.

2. The Punisher & Deadpool: a grim guy, a fun guy... and both use lots of guns! It's a natural! A Bishop/Nick Fury team-up would also be pretty cool. Suggested foes: Bullseye or the Enforcers. (Remember the Spidey foes known as Fancy Dan, the Ox and the Lariat? I haven't seen them in years!)

3. Henry Pym & all of his various incarnations: did you ever see the "Three Doctors" or "Five Doctors" episodes of Dr. Who? You could do a great story where Dr. Pym (as Ant-Man, Giant Man, Goliath and Yellow Jacket) are all pulled from their respective time-lines. Suggested villain: Kang. (If he can't beat the Avengers as a group, he might have better luck knocking them off one at a time!)

4. The Thing/Strong Guy/Luke Cage: three of Marvel's mightiest could only fight a group like the Wrecking Crew, or Thor's old nemesis, the Executioner.

Also, don't be afraid to experiment. How about a three-part Captain America/Sub-Mariner/Human Torch story set in World War II? Maybe a Morbius/Archangel adventure? I liked Spidey teaming with the Sandman, so don't be afraid to have villains team up with heroes for a specific reason. An Iron Man/Dr. Octopus tale would be great. A Nightcrawler/Green Goblin team-up or a Quicksilver/Elektro story would also be awesome.

T.E. Pouncey
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Andover, KS 67002

Great ideas, T.E.! Fear not, future issues of MARVEL TEAM-UP will indeed feature many interesting non-Spidey stories. And if you're hankering for villains, just wait! If it's Namor and Cap you want to see, then make sure you're back here next month! And be sure to look for a Captain America/Human Torch/Namor story in MARVEL UNIVERSE, a new series due out in April!

Dear *MARVEL TEAM-UP*,

I love the new book, especially the Hercules and Man-Thing issues. Marvel's new idea to revive old titles is cool. I'm not old enough to remember the original runs on books like MAN-THING or MARVEL TEAM-UP. While they looked neat to me while I sifted through my local store's back issue bins, I had neither the money nor patience to track them all down. So thanks for giving a young guy a chance to experience some old-fashioned Marvel magic.

Now (groan), I have some ideas for upcoming characters: Hulk, Thor, Captain America, Iron Fist, Black Knight, Nick Fury, Hawkeye, Vision, Iron Man, Falcon and Deadpool. And since I love the new monthlies coming out, could you try Deathlok?

Making Mine Marvel,

Nathan Flint
2136 W. Agatite
Chicago, IL 60625

Looking at your wish list, we have a sneaky suspicion that you'll be very happy in just a few short months! As for Captain America, look no further than the "Next Issue" box! Oh, and Nathan, if you're enjoying revivals such as MAN-THING and MARVEL TEAM-UP, be sure to check out ALPHA FLIGHT, KA-ZAR and WEREWOLF-BY-NIGHT (sorry to plug so many books, but they're all so gosh darn good)!

Dear *MARVEL-TEAM UP*,

Like many readers out there, I dig the concept of your mag. However, while I am a huge Spider-Man fan, I think it is great that you're making this title a full Marvel book.

Here's five team-ups I'd like to see:

1. Human Torch & Iceman
2. Wolverine & the Hulk (or Wolverine & Spidey)
3. Iron Fist & Shang-Chi
4. Sabra & Shamrock (CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS lives!)
5. Storm & Thor

And here's some characters I'd like to see:

1. Daughters of the Dragons
2. Scarlet Witch
3. Hellstorm
4. Guardians of the Galaxy

...and especially...

5. Deathlok!

Brendan Walsh
1501 Hood
Chicago, IL 60660

Hmmmmm. Two calls for Deathlok. Do we have a movement afoot? The only thing we can say at this point, Brendan, is that one of the characters you've mentioned will appear very soon. Which one? That would be telling (oh, we're so sneaky)!

NEXT ISSUE:

THE SUB-MARINER'S UNDERSEA KINGDOM STANDS ON THE BRINK OF CIVIL WAR AND NAMORITA FACES EXECUTION! TIME TO CALL IN THE CAVALRY, LIKE THE STAR-SPANGLED SENTINEL OF LIBERTY! THAT'S RIGHT, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HEROES REBORN, THE AVENGING SON OF ATLANTIS TEAMS WITH HIS INVADERS TEAMMATE, THE LIVING LEGEND OF WORLD WAR II! PLUS: NAMOR DONS SOME NEW DUDS! IT'S STAR (FISH) AND STRIPES FOREVER, BROUGHT TO YOU BY TOM PEYER AND DAVE ROSS... WITH A CATCHY COVER BY JORDAN RASKIN!

ALSO ON SALE THIS MONTH! IF IT'S MORE TEAM-UPS YOU CRAVE, BE ON THE LOOKOUT ALL YEAR FOR THE MARVEL ANNUAL '98 SERIES. INSPIRED BY LAST YEAR'S EXCELLENT DAREDEVIL/DEADPOOL '97, EACH DOUBLE-SIZED ISSUE WILL FEATURE A MIX OF HOT HEROES AND TOP TALENT. WATCH FOR KA-ZAR/DAREDEVIL IN FEBRUARY AND CABLE/MACHINE MAN IN MARCH!

PETE FRANCO
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